

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 130800 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8565

CINCPAC

USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4048

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SPORT REPORT MR 1: GVN
PREPARATIONS FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL QUANG NAM

CINCPAD FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL DANANG ON MARCH 12 ACTION
AMEMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C G N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 214

EMV. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SPOT REPORT MR I: GVN PREPARATIONS
FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL QUANG NAM

FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM REPORT FROM TDY FSO ASSIGNED TO
QUANG NAM PROVIDING FURTHER DETAILS OF CURRENT GVN OPERATIONS IN
DAI LOC AND DUC DUC DISTRICTS (DANANG SITREP X PLUS 40):

1. THE GVN IS MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO
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AREAS WHICH AT BEST HAVE BEEN CONTESTED AND NORMALLY HAVE BEEN UNDER EFFECTIVE ENEMY CONTROL. THE BIGGEST AREA IS THE " LOC HIEP" TRIANGLE FORMED BY THE JUNCTION OF VU GIA AND THU BON RIVERS. THIS SECTION OF DAI LOC AND DUC DUC DISTRICTS IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE " ARIZONA TERRITORY." REFUGEES ARE PLANNING TO RETURN TO LOC TAN, LOC HOA AND LOC PHUOC VILLAGES IN DAI LOC AND TO LOC SON, LOC THANH AND LOC QUY VILLAGES IN DUC DUC.

2. THREE ARVN BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN SOUTHERN DAI LOC. NEW VILLAGE OFFICES OF THE DAI LOC SITES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED. A PONTOON BRIDGE HAS BEEN LAID ACROSS THE VU GIA RIVER. BULLDOZERS AND ROME PLOWS ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN LAND-CLEARING OPERATIONS NEAR THE VILLAGE SITES.

3. IN DUC DUC SECTION OF THE LOC HIEP TRIANGLE, OPERATIONS HAVE NOT YET COMMENCED. EARLIER IN FEBRUARY, ELEMENTS OF THE ARVN 3 RD DIVISION WERE OPERATING IN THIS AREA BUT DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS THEY APPEAR TO HAVE CONFINED THEIR ACTIVITIES TO DAI LOC. ACCORDING TO DUC DUC DISTRICT CHIEF MAJOR LAC, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 400 COMMUNIST TROOPS AND A TRAINING AREA IN THE LOC HIEP TRIANGLE. DURING A VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT OVER AREA MARCH 9, A FAIR NUMBER OF SCATTERED THATCHED- ROOF HOUSES, SURROUNDED BY SMALL CULTIVATED PLOTS, WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE. MAJOR LAC EXPECTS TO HAVE ONE RF BATTALION IN THE AREA BY MARCH 10. VILLAGE OFFICES ARE SCHEDULED TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN ONE WEEK. THEY WILL BE PROTECTED BY POLICE AND ONE PF PLATOON IN EACH VILLAGE.

4. SIMILAR GVN OPERATIONS APPEAR TO BE UNDERWAY IN WESTERN DUY XUYEN DISTRICT WHICH BORDERS THE LOC HIEP AREA.

5. CONGEN COMMENT: THE GVN INSERTED ITS PRESENCE INTO THE LOC HIEP TRIANGLE BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE IN THE FORM OF AN ARVN BATTALION BROKEN DOWN INTO SMALLER UNITS. THESE UNITS WERE WITHDRAWN FOLLOWING THE CEASEFIRE BECAUSE OF RESUPPLY PROBLEMS. THE VC (AS NOTED ABOVE) HAVE HAD PREPONDERANT CONTROL IN THIS AREA BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER. THE CURRENT ARVN- SUPPORTED RESETTLEMENT OPERATION IS INTENDED TO PLANT A PERMANENT VVN PRESENCE. THE GVN APPARENTLY CONSIDERS LOC HIEP AS A VITAL INTEREST AND WILL PROBABLY DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE DE FACTO SOVEREIGNTY. END CONGEN COMMENT. BROWN
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